

SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1925.

Area in acres	...	...	...	62,627
Population—Census 1921	...	...	...	13,905
do. Estimated 1925	...	...	...	14,030
No. of Inhabited Houses 1921	..	...	...	3,394
No. of Inhabited Houses 1925 (estimated)	...	...	...	3,690
Rateable Value £90,887	Penny Rate	£237	11s. 4d.	

This District is flat and contains large surfaces of water (Broads), also Rivers Bure, Ant and Thurne.

The Social conditions remain much the same, and the chief occupations are Agriculture and Horticulture. There has been no change in the conditions of life of the inhabitants likely to adversely affect their health.

Births.

Year	Males	Females	Illegitimates	Rate per Thousand
1921	163	131	18	21'5
1922	134	141	19	19'91
1923	146	118	16	18'95
1924	107	128	15	16'65
1925	110	98	13	14'81

Deaths.

Year	Total No.	Infants under one year	Illegitimates	Rate per Thousand
1921	183	19	3	13'3
1922	149	17	0	10'78
1923	193	13	4	13'85
1924	159	12	1	11'26
1925	178	10	2	12'68

Death Rate of Infants under one year 48'12 per 1000 of nett Births.

TABLE X.—**Birth-Rate, Death-Rate, and Analysis of Mortality** during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULATION	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1000 POPULATION										RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS		
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years)	Total Deaths under one year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death	
England and Wales	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·05	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1	
London	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0	

Causes of Death.

Influenza ...	12	Other defined Diseases ...	45
Whooping Cough ...	2	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1
Diphtheria ...	1	Bronchitis ...	13
Tuberculosis ...	14	Pneumonia ...	7
Cancer ...	24	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2
Diabetes ...	1	Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	10	Arterio Sclerosis ...	4
Heart Disease ...	21	Nephritis ...	6
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	Congenital Debility, Malformation, Premature Birth ...	4
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	1	Other Deaths from Violence ...	4
Suicide ...	1		

Notifiable Diseases.

	Cases	Rate Small-burgh R.D.	Rate England and Wales
Scarlet Fever ...	25	1·77	2·36
Diphtheria ...	6	·43	1·23
Enteric ...	1	·07	·07
Pneumonia ...	4	·29	

Tuberculosis.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1			2	1	1			1
5	1		1	2				
10		1	1	2				
15	1	1	1	1				
20	1	4	2	2		1		1
25	3	1		1	2	1		
35	1					1		
45	2				1			
55	1	1				1		
65 & upwards		1						

Hospitals provided or subsidized by Local Authority or by County Council.

1. TUBERCULOSIS. All by County Council.
Kelling Sanatorium, Bramblewood Sanatorium, Stanninghall Farm Colony. Norfolk & Norwich Hospital for some cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis requiring operation.
2. MATERNITY. Norwich Maternity Home and Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.
3. CHILDREN. Jenny Lind.
4. FEVER. None.
5. SMALLPOX. None.
6. NORFOLK & NORWICH HOSPITAL.

Institutional Provision for unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

Poor Law Infirmary, St. Michael's Buildings, Aylsham.

Ambulance Facilities can be obtained from the Red Cross, Norwich, by hire for non-infectious cases or accidents.

Clinics and Treatment Centres in Area.

Maternity and Child Welfare	None.
Day Nurseries	None.
School Clinics	None.
Tuberculosis Dispensaries	None.
Venereal Diseases Dispensaries	None.

Public Health Officers of Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—part time.

Sanitary Inspector—whole time. A.R.S.I. Building Surveyor.

Professional Nursing in Home.

- (a) *General*—By District Nurses of Norfolk Nursing Federation in many Parishes.
- (b) *Infectious Diseases*—None unless a private nurse is hired from Norwich or Yarmouth.

Midwives.

There are Ten Midwives practising in the District—8 under the Norfolk Nursing Federation and 2 independently.

Chemical Work.

Water Analysis is done by Mr. Lincolne Sutton, Norwich.

During the year 74 samples of water were submitted. These were taken from all parts of the District: 30 were found to be impure. On a second analysis, after cleansing of the wells, 17 were still unfit for use. In 7 cases new wells were sunk, and in 6 other cases arrangements made for a pure supply.

The water supply in Stalham continues to cause anxiety, no less than 6 wells having to be condemned during the past year.

Steps are being taken by the County Council to obtain a pure supply by bore at the County Police Station.

Legislation in Force.

Bye-Laws with respect to :—Dairies, Cowsheds, &c.,	1907.
Tents, Vans, and Sheds,	1911.
New Buildings	1915.
Earth Closets, &c.	1916.

Rivers and Streams.

The Rivers Bure, Ant and Thurne suffer little or any direct pollution except for three months in summer when so many craft are on the water ways and broads.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There is no “system” of drainage in the district, except that of one sewer and an open ditch drain in Stalham, and that “system” is out of date. Slops, Sewage and Refuse of every kind is generally disposed of by burying in gardens attached to cottages.

Closet Accommodation.

A very large majority of earth closets are used in the district. A few old privy middens are in existence but are gradually being converted to earth closets. 7 middens were condemned and pail closets substituted during the year. Conversions to water closets numbered 3.

Scavenging.

There is no public scavenging done by Sanitary Authority.

Sanitary Inspection, etc.

- 75 nuisances were reported to the Council.
- 52 cases of structural defects, i.e.—dampness of walls, floors and roofs broken or deficient, were reported and were dealt with as far as possible by informal notices or owners were personally interviewed.
- 12 nuisances were in respect of drains and cesspools becoming overful or leaking, and in each case the necessary work was done and the nuisance abated.
- 11 nuisances were as follows :—

Deposit of night soil on waste ground	6
Animals kept in dirty condition	4
Parish Council Drain	1

The Parish drain referred to above is at Stalham, and is at times a great nuisance being an open ditch. The only temporary remedy is constant cleaning, and this of course gradually deepens the ditch and then the level for flow of contents is so altered as to make the contents almost stagnant.

Schools.

Schools have been inspected for defects and cleanliness, and in most cases found in good or fair condition. Hickling School is in my opinion somewhat overcrowded, and there is great need of a good water supply. Many Schools were closed during the year for epidemic illnesses.

For Influenza,	Catfield, Edingthorpe, Tunstead, Neatishead, Ingham, Westwick, East Ruston and Bacton.
For Whooping Cough,	Westwick, East Ruston, Sloley, Swafeld, Ludham and Hoveton St. John.
For Measles,	Happisburgh.

Housing.

The standard of housing in the District is poor and the quantity deficient.

In most villages there are at least half-a-dozen houses which one would like to condemn. They are in bad structural condition, very damp, have little or no convenience or arrangements for cooking or storing food, and in some cases have an insufficiency or absence of pure water.

It is not sanitary to have dirty clothes washed in the same room as food is prepared or kept, and on occasions I have known both functions performed in the same saucepan at different periods of the day.

The Council are building cottages in the parishes of Horning, Ludham, Honing, Hickling, East Ruston and Neatishead and are purchasing sites in other parishes. In most cases the Council are preparing to build 4 cottages in each parish, but if the number was doubled it would not be too many and unless they are less tardily decided upon and the buildings more rapidly started than has been the case heretofore it will be the next generation only who will live to reside in them.

65 Subsidy Houses (Chamberlain Act) were started during the year. 47 have been completed and are occupied.

No applications have been received from private persons to build under the Wheatley Act.

The Council are now considering a scheme to enable private persons to purchase their own houses, the Council being the Mortgagees.

Some overcrowding is present more or less in every village.

The present Council Scheme provides for 62 houses. Contracts for 20 were placed during the year, none of which are yet completed.

The difficulties found in remedying unfitness in existing houses are :— 1. Expenses of repairs at present prices of labour and material, 2.—want of ready cash to meet expenses on the part of many owners of cottage property, and 3.—the question of property being worth the outlay required to bring it up to the present day standards when it is recognised that the working classes are entitled to live as human beings and not herded together like animals.

Bye Laws relating to Houses, Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

The existing Bye-laws are satisfactory except that an addition should be made to those on housing, requiring notice to be given to the Building Surveyor of any alteration or additions especially in reference to drains and cesspools, etc.

Housing Statistics for year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

A.	Total including numbers given separately under B.	45
B.	With State assistance under Acts	
	I. By local authority.	0
	II. By other bodies or persons.	45

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

1.	Total number inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts.	225
2.	Number inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	205
3.	Number so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
4.	Number not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	52

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers.	48
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.	Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Acts, 1925.	
1.	Number in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	4
2.	Number rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
	(a) By owners.	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	0
3.	Number in which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.	0

B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
1.	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	20
2.	Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
	(a) By owners.	18
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	0
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, 15 of Housing Act, 1925.	
1.	Representations made with a view to making Closing Orders.	0
2.	Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	0
3.	Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, dwelling houses having been made fit.	0
4.	Number of Demolition Orders made	0
5.	Number demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	0

Slaughter Houses.

There are 20 Registered Slaughter-houses in the District and one licensed slaughter-house was erected during the year. So far as is practicable these are visited at time of slaughtering and the meat inspected. The amount of meat condemned during the year was about 60 lbs.

Bakehouses.

There are 22 Bakehouses. Care is taken to see that these are kept in a clean and wholesome condition.

Factories and Workshops.

Number of inspections of factories was 16. With one exception all were found to be in good order with good ventilation and proper sanitary accommodation. The workshops are in most cases small one man businesses employing generally only one or two workers. All were inspected during the year and directions given where required as to cleanliness etc.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

A general overhauling of the Dairies and Cowsheds is now in progress. The buildings used for these purposes are in many cases unsuitable and in some, registration will have to be refused unless satisfactory alterations or/and additions are made.

The number of cows in the district is estimated approximately at 2,040, and much of the milk goes to London or other towns.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases.

There has been no abnormal prevalence of infectious diseases during 1925. Bacteriological examinations are made by Norfolk County Laboratory, 34 swabs being sent in suspected cases of Diphtheria during the year, 8 of which were found to be positive. There are no means of isolating infectious cases in majority of houses, but fumigation and spraying with solution of formaldehyde is resorted to in all cases. Jeyes' Fluid is also provided for use in infected houses. The Scheck and Wick tests have not been made use of.

No vaccination has been done by the Medical Officer of Health.

Owing to the long illness and death of the late Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. A. Dale, and the absence of detailed records during that time and subsequent interval before the appointment of the present Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Taunton, there has, I regret to say, been difficulty in giving accurate statistics, and in some details the report is not so full as I could have wished.

B. D. Z. WRIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

